

January 28, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20530

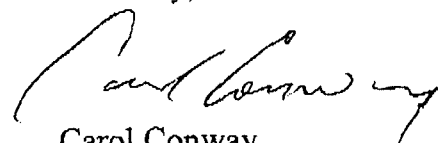
Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

The pending settlement between Microsoft and the federal government presents an opportunity to bring this case to a close. This suit has distracted Microsoft and the nation from more pressing priorities for too long, and this settlement will allow us to get back to business.

The settlement will, in effect, force Microsoft to treat its competitors in a more sympathetic way. For example, Microsoft has agreed to avoid retaliation against any computer makers who ship software that competes with anything in Windows. This alone will increase competition among software developers. Additionally, Microsoft has agreed to share its code for the Windows operating system that will enable its competitors to configure software that is fully compatible with Windows. Most vexing, however, is the provision that places Microsoft under the oversight of a government mandated technical review committee. As the president of a business, I can say that I would not relish the idea of my company being watched by the government at all times.

This lawsuit has drained resources on both sides for more than three years. The settlement can stop the resource drain, and at the same time make the IT sector more competitive. I support it wholeheartedly, and believe that it is in the best interest of the nation. Thank you for your time and efforts in Washington.

Sincerely,



Carol Conway  
President

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